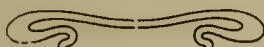


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DARLASTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1918,

WITH SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

BY THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

DARLASTON :

CHRIS. WILKES, DARLASTON PRINTING WORKS.

1919.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Annual Report for 1918.

Area—913 Acres.

Population (estimated) 18,371 for Birth-rate.

„ „ 16,396 for Death-rate.

Births.

The Births numbered 459 viz: 237 Males and 222 Females, of these 14 were illegitimate, viz: 8 males and 6 females. The Birth-rate is 24·93, compared with 24·33 in 1917 and 27·29 in 1916.

Deaths.

The Deaths registered were 335, viz: 189 males and 146 females, giving a death-rate of 20·43, compared with 16·09 in 1917 and 15·37 in 1916.

Included in above figures are 35 deaths which occurred outside the district.

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths under one year was 42, compared with 41 in 1917 and 61 in 1916.

The percentage of deaths to total deaths was 12·53, compared with 15·01 in 1917 and 22·90 in 1916.

To births registered 9·1, compared with 8·9 in 1917 and 12·55 in 1916.

The rate per 1000 births is 91·5.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Voluntary Committee which was formed in connection with the Darlaston Child Welfare Centre had for its object the improvement of the conditions generally of Child life in the District and of bringing to the notice of the Mothers the easiest and best methods of feeding and clothing their children. For this purpose sewing classes were formed, where they (the Mothers) are taught knitting, sewing, and the cutting out of garments.

That the classes have been a success it is only necessary to mention that between 350 and 400 garments have been made during the year.

The Food question has also received great attention. A supply of sterilized and condensed milk has been sold at the Centre each week, and during the acute shortage proved a great boon to both mothers and children. Dried foods have also been sold.

The importance of fireguards has been brought to the notice of the mothers, a supply having been obtained and sold at cost price.

Ten necessitous cases have been dealt with, supplies of milk, food and clothing having been given according to need.

A successful Baby Show was held in the Town Hall in November. Between 70 and 80 babies taking part in the competition. Prizes were given to the winning babies and certificates of merit to the mothers.

TABLE

Showing Attendances.

First visits paid by Health Visitor	..	.	..	388
Revisits paid by Health Visitor	..	.	..	2410
Visits paid to Expectant Mothers	..	..	..	13
Number of times Centre opened	..	..	.	109
Number on books (December 31st, 1918)	.	..	..	250
Total Attendance made by infants	..	.	..	1773
Number of infants seen by Medical Officer	..	..		369
Total number of visits paid by Health Visitor	..		..	3553

Measles.

This disease became epidemic in August, reaching its maximum intensity in October, altogether 149 cases were notified, with 10 deaths.

Scarlet Fever.

Twelve cases were notified (no deaths) compared with 21 cases (no deaths) in 1917, and 24 cases (no deaths) in 1916. Eleven of the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Enteric Fever.

Three cases were notified, with one death. All the patients were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Diarrhoea (including Enteritis).

This disease was responsible for 4 deaths, compared with 9 in 1917 and 12 in 1916; all occurred in children under 2 years.

The rate per 1000 births is 8·71, compared with 19·56 in 1917 and 23·71 in 1916

The usual warning notices were issued early in the summer.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.

No cases were reported.

Whooping Cough.

Three deaths occurred, compared with nine in 1917.

Respiratory Diseases

DEATHS—Bronchitis	..	..	21
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	66
Other Respiratory diseases			3
			—
			90
			—

Compared with 66 in 1917.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

This disease accounted for 15 deaths compared with 23 in 1917.

20 cases were notified, compared with 26 in 1917 and 49 in 1916.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two cases were notified, both of which were treated at home.

Puerperal Fever.

Two cases occurred, both of which were treated in Hospitals.

Epidemic Influenza.

On the 28th of June this disease visited the district and continued with unabated violence until about the 26th of July, when the epidemic seemed to have spent itself.

Eleven deaths were directly due to this visitation, which, considering the number of people attacked, is very small.

The disease again appeared at the end of October and continued until the 14th December, when it suddenly ceased.

The worst feature of the epidemic was the number of persons under 40 years of age to whom it proved fatal. Seventy-five persons died during this visitation, making a total of 86 deaths directly due to the disease.

Leaflets on the precautions to be taken for the prevention of the spread of the disease were distributed from house to house.

All schools were closed until the end of the year and both Cinema Houses were closed for one week for cleansing purposes, and when re-opened, children were not admitted to any of the performances.

A film entitled "Dr. Wise on Influenza" was borrowed from the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, and shown on three evenings in succession at each house. This no doubt had an educational effect.

Unfortunately funeral arrangements entirely broke down, but the District Council ably grappled the situation.

Firms, employing Carpenters, were asked to supply coffins, and motor waggon were borrowed, in which the bodies, under the direction of the Assistant Sanitary Inspector, were conveyed to the Cemetery.

Cancer.

Eight deaths were registered compared with 12 in 1917.

Inquests.

Five inquests were held.

Isolation Hospital.

Three cases of Enteric and eleven of Scarlet Fever have been admitten.

TABLE

Showing cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1918.

	AT ALL AGES.	REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
Enteric Fever	3	3
Scarlet Fever	12	11
Measles	149	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	0
Puerperal Fever	2	2
Erysipelas	5	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	20	0
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	0
Total	194	16

TABLE

Showing causes of death during 1918. (Civilians only).

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	189	146
Enteric Fever	1	0
Measles	8	2
Whooping Cough	3	0
Influenza	50	36
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	7
Tuberculosis Meningitis	1	3
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	2	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	5	3
Organic Heart Disease	10	10
Bronchitis	13	8
Pneumonia (all forms)	37	29
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	0
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	1	3
Nephritis and Brights Disease	2	2
Puerperal Fever	0	1
Parturition apart from Puerperal Fever	0	1
Congenital Debility, &c.	12	7
Violence apart from suicide	4	1
Other defined diseases	29	32

Surveyor's Department.

No. 58 W.C's were erected (or converted from P's) during the year and connected to Public Sewers.

Factories and Workshops, etc.

Plans have been received and approved for Extensive Alterations and Additions to most Works in the Town.

The Buildings erected were of an up-to-date character, commodious, and with adequate light and ventilation.

Owing to the erection of Canteens and efficient Sanitary Conveniences, the conditions of the Workers has been considerably improved during the year.

Land for recreation purposes has been acquired by many Firms in close proximity to Canteens.

No Houses were erected during the year.

Repairs to Carriage-ways.

Slow progress was made during the former part of the year, in remetalling Carriage-ways owing to depleted labour and lack of Materials.

During the last few months (Materials being released and additional labour available) the work has been carried on with great speed.

The Roads now undergoing Repairs are being remetalled with local Granite, grafted in with Tarvia, finished with $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Granite Chippings and rolled.

Scavenging.

The Scavenging of the Town has received our best attention. Owing to additional labour we are now able to carry out the work more efficiently and more frequently than during the preceding 5 years.

Sewers.

The whole of the Sewers are in good working condition they have been periodically flushed, Man-holes examined and debris removed.

Only 1 stoppage was reported during the year, and that owing to a broken Lamp pole in Dangerfield Lane, which was speedily remedied.

In conclusion I have to thank your Surveyor, your Assistant Sanitary Inspector and your Health Visitor for their valuable help during the year.

Yours faithfully,

VINCENT J. MAGRANE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting on behalf of your Inspector, who is absent on military service, the annual report on the sanitary circumstances of the district.

The report is necessarily abridged as it has only been possible owing to the exceptional times, to attend to urgent and necessary matters. However the district has been maintained in reasonable sanitary condition in the face of many difficulties.

Scavenging.

A good standard of work was maintained until November, when practically all our men were required at the Cemetery on account of the high death rate due to the Influenza epidemic. The scavenging consequently became somewhat in arrears.

The following table is instructive as indicating the work done, and the nature of the scavenging. The figures in columns 3 and 4 refer to conveniences of the old conservancy type, those referred to in column 3 being of the privy type, and in column 4 privy cistern. The figures of course only indicate the number of occasions on which these receptacles have been attended to.

TABLE 1.

MONTH.	No. of Bins Emptied.	No. of Dry Ashpits.	No. of Middens.	No. of Cisterns.	Loads of Ashes.	Loads of Night Soil	Loads from Dumbwells.
January 1918, to February 16th to	8134	39	3	30	554	5	83
March 16th to	4450	25	6	18	287	8	50
April 20th to	7485	70	12	19	462	14	37
May 18th to	7018	37	15	23	378	23	58
June 15th to	5425	69	14	28	385	18	73
July							
August 1 to 10th	10477	137	18	37	716	21	92
September 14th to	7114	76	7	25	435	9	56
October 19th to	7084	71	7	25	483	8	70
November 16th to	5612	54	4	7	344	9	28
December 31st to	10399	79	4	14	570	4	42
Totals 1918	73198	657	90	217	4614	119	589
Totals 1917	92908	612	77	325	4486	107	727
Totals 1916	91474	757	102	366	4153	144	782
Totals 1915	161512	909	117	380	4606	176	783
Totals 1914	102821	955	254	367	4311	406	654
Totals 1913	71001	1130	440	388	4388	445	438
Totals 1912	50331	1119	502	351	4183	488	177

TABLE 2.

Houses to house and miscellaneous inspections and houses concerning which complaints have been received	230
Re-inspections .. .	156
Visits to Slaughterhouses	123
Shops and Butchers	131
Shops, Fish, Game and Poultry .. .	62
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops .. .	144
Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses	62
Canal Boats inspected .. .	0
Infectious disease cases inspected and reported upon .. .	45
Measles	256
Scarlet Fever	25
Total	1234
Number of Statutory Notices	
Reports to Surveyor re dangerous buildings .. .	2
Number of houses disinfected .. .	94
Infected patients removed to hospital	} Scarlet Fever 11 Enteric 3
Houses from which beddings removed and disinfected	
	4

Meat and Foods Inspection

1 Beast, weight 560 lbs, was condemned as diseased and unfit for human consumption.

Various quantities of fish and meat were seized and condemned as unfit for food.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops

There are three dairies, 5 Cowkeepers, and 14 Purveyors of Milk in the district. The premises have been visited at regular intervals and the following complaints reported and amended.

Improper storage of milk (conditions unsatisfactory) .. .	3
Dirty condition of cowhouses	2
Other defects	3

Slaughterhouses.

There are ten slaughterhouses on the register, six being registered and four licensed annually.

The majority of these places have not been used during the year as very little slaughtering of cattle has been done in the district.

School Sanitation.

Periodical inspections of the sanitary conveniences at the various schools have been made and any defects reported. They have been kept comparatively clean and in fair order.

The schools have been thoroughly sprayed during each holiday and at various times throughout the year. Particular attention was given to this during the Influenza epidemic and and when Measles was prevalent.

Infectious Diseases.

Particulars as to notifications will be found set out in a Table at the end of the M. O. H. Report.

During the period covered by the report 15 deaths have been reported by the Registrar as per arrangements made in 1914, whereby all deaths from Tuberculosis are immediately transferred to the Department so that arrangements can be made to disinfect, etc.

J. J. CHAMBERS,

Assistant Sanitary Inspector.